WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A computer network system comprising a plurality of information provider computers, at least one information collector computer, and a network for connecting said information provider computers and said information collector computer together,

each of said information provider computers storing therein updated information in connection with generation number information including a version code thereof,

said information collector computer comprising: a local buffer for storing therein said updated information in connection with corresponding said version codes thereof; a receiving unit for receiving said generation number information from said information provider computers at a specified timing; and a comparator for comparing each said version code received at said specified timing against said version codes stored in said local buffer, wherein:

if one of said version codes in said generation number information received at said specified timing is not stored in said local buffer, said receiving unit receives said updated information corresponding to said one of said version codes from a corresponding one of said information provider computer.

2. The computer network system according to claim 2, wherein said generation number information includes an ID code and said version code.

3. The computer network system according to claim 1, wherein said information provider computer separates said information into a plurality of information sets, and stores said information sets in connection with respective generation number information.

4. The computer network system according to claim 3, wherein said generation number information includes an ID code and said version code of each of said information sets.

5. The computer network system according to claim 3, wherein at least one of said information sets includes a plurality of subsets, which are stored in connection with respective generation number information sectors.

6. The computer network system according to claim 3, wherein said separation of said information is based on an update frequency of said information set.

7. A method for collecting information by using an information collection computer from a plurality of information provider computers via a communication network, said method comprising the steps of:

storing in each of said information provider computers updated information in connection with generation number information including a version code thereof;

storing in said information provider computer said updated information in connection with corresponding said version codes thereof;

receiving said generation number information by using said information provider computer from said information provider computers at a specified timing;

detecting whether or not each said version code received at said specified timing is stored in said information collector computer; and

receiving said updated information from one of said information provider computers if a corresponding version code is not stored in said information collector computer.

8. The method according to claim 7, wherein said generation number information includes an ID code and said version code.

9. The method according to claim 7, wherein said information in each of said information provider computers is separated into a plurality of information sets, which are stored in connection with respective generation number information.

10. The method according to claim 9, wherein said generation number information includes an ID code and said version code of each of said information sets.

11. The method according to claim 7, wherein at least one of said information sets includes a plurality of subsets, which are stored in connection with respective generation number information sectors.

12. The method according to claim 7, wherein said separation of said information is based on an update frequency of said information set.